

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I demand that the FCC have public hearings so the public, which by the way are suppose to be owners of these airways, can finally voice their outrage at the consolidation of these airways. Our democracy is not being served by these large media conglomerates. Profit is their motive not news that a democracy has to have to survive. You are taking this country down a road to disaster. Mr. Powell should resign and be replaced by someone who will look after the public interest not corporate profits.